

# CAESALPINIA BONDOC (FABACEAE) NEW TO LOUISIANA

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A recent collection of *Caesalpinia bonduc* (L.) Roxb., a sea bean, from a coastal barrier island in Lafourche Parish, southeastern Louisiana, is apparently the first record for the state. On 27 April 2001, material of *C. bonduc* was collected on the western end of East Timbalier Island, a barrier island bordering Timbalier Bay. The plant was growing adjacent to an interior canal bordered by a low levee of rocks (riprap). At the time of collection the plants had mature dehiscing fruits, with gray seeds, but no flowers. Identification of the plant was verified by comparison with specimens from Florida at LAF. I also saw the species at another location in lower Lafourche Parish on 5 April 2001, but no specimen collected. The plant was on a canal bank approximately 0.6 miles east of Louisiana Highway 1, ca. 1.4 miles south-south east of the La. Hwy. 1 bridge over Bayou Lafourche at Leeville, and ca. 1 mile northeast of the heliport located between La. Hwy. 1 and Bayou Lafourche, south of the Leeville bridge. The latitude and longitude, recorded with a hand-held global positioning unit, is latitude 29°13'36.87, longitude 90°12'08.77 (Fig. 1).

The species is not shown for Louisiana by Isely (1990), Thomas and Allen (1998), or the USDA, NRCS database (2001). Prior to its find in Louisiana, it was known in North America north of Mexico only from central and southern peninsular Florida (Wunderlin 1998). It ranges widely around the tropics and subtropics of the world. A voucher specimen has been deposited at LAF, with a duplicate at NLU.

Voucher specimen: **LOUISIANA. Lafourche Parish:** Sprawling over riprap bordering canal on interior of west end of East Timbalier Island, a coastal barrier island, forming a somewhat elongate colony ca. 10 m long, 27 Apr 2001, *Vermillion s.n.* (LAF, NLU).

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FIG. 1. *Caesalpinia bonduc* locations in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

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